



STATE OF MICHIGAN

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANSING

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES  
DIRECTOR

March 14, 2005  
RESUBMITTED: April 11, 2005

Memorandum to the Natural Resources Commission:

SUBJECT: Open Woodcock Hunting in Dickinson Woodcock Research Unit

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, authorizes the Director and the Commission to issue orders to manage wild animals in this state.

Discussion and Background:

In 2002, the Central Woodcock Management Region states of Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin agreed to partnership on a regional three-year research study with the USFWS to examine survival, habitat use, and movements of woodcock in the western Great Lakes region. The primary objective of the study was to evaluate the magnitude and causes of mortality during the fall, and to assess the impact of harvest on woodcock survival. Each of the three states identified one to two pairs of study areas in the breeding range of the American woodcock. Study sites were selected based on the likelihood that sufficient numbers of woodcock could be captured and fitted with radio transmitters on the sites, ownership and accessibility to conduct ground and aerial-based telemetry, ability to restrict woodcock hunting, and geographic proximity between opened and closed woodcock hunting sites. Study protocols were similar to those used for the woodcock research project in the Eastern Woodcock Management Region to facilitate comparability of results between the two Regions. The Michigan study was conducted in the Copper Country State Forest in northern Dickinson County in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The Dickinson Woodcock Research Unit was defined by the Michigan Natural Resources Commission in 2002 for the purpose of this research and was closed to woodcock hunting during the study. The study has been completed and the hunting closure is no longer necessary in the research unit.

It is recommended that the area described as the Dickinson Woodcock Research Unit be opened to woodcock hunting beginning September 24, 2005.

Recommendation:

This order was submitted for information only at the April 2005 meeting of the Natural Resources Commission. This item appeared in the April 25, 2005, Calendar and is eligible for approval on May 5, 2005. We are now recommending that it be acted upon at this meeting

William E. Moritz, Chief  
Wildlife Division

Alan Marble, Chief  
Law Enforcement Division

Arminda S. Koch  
Resource Management Deputy

Dennis Fedewa  
Chief Deputy

I have analyzed and discussed these recommendations with staff and concur as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries  
Director

# **WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER**

## **Amendment No. 7 of 2005**

Under the authority of sections 40107 and 40113a, Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended, being sections 324.40107 and 324.40113a of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources ordered that effective May 6, 2005, the following section of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

### **3.420 Jacksnipe, rails, and woodcock hunting; open seasons, exceptions; king rails.**

Sec. 3.420. (1) The statewide open season for woodcock shall be a total of 45 days beginning on the Saturday closest to September 22.

(2) The open seasons for common snipe (jacksnipe), Virginia and sora rails shall be September 15 to November 14 statewide.

(3) There is no open season for king rails.

Issued this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2005.

Approved as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

Keith J. Charters, Chairman  
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries  
Director